The Southern PATRIOT

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TRENDS

A NLRB election was held August 3 and 4 in the Winston-Salem, N. C., Camel plant, largest cigarette factory in the world. In Unit 1, prefabrication, the vote was UCAPAWA (CIO) 3,598; no union 20, and AFL 236. In Unit 2, manufacturing, CIO 2,829, no union 2,856, AFL 115. Total CIO 6,427, no union 3,092, AFL 135.

On August 5, UCAPAWA swept the Charleston, S. C., plant of the American Tobacco cigar plant by a vote of 1,067, with 293 for AFL (Cigar Makers International Union), and 114 for no union.

A full page ad headlined "Over 1,000,000 CIO members are in the armed Services. They want no strikes in wartime—they want union protection in peace-time" is typical of the tone of the CIO campaign.

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President of the Reynolds Company that resisted the organizing drive is J. A. Gray. His salary in 1936 was $50,000 and in 1942 $217,040, an increase of 434% in 6 years. In June of 1943 the average weekly wage for all industrial employees in North Carolina was $23.53. Thus the average worker in that state would have to labor 3½ years to make as much as Mr. Gray receives in one week ($4,173).

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The small farmer (the 65% who have only 16% of the rural wealth) are hurt and not helped by the rise in farm prices, according to the publication BREAD & BUTTER. "The rise in farm products has accounted for 35% of the increase in urban living costs. but it has accounted for 40% of the increase in the farmer's living cost."

Main beneficiaries of the increase in prices are the owners of the "factories in the fields," represented by the farm bloc, and three-tenths of one per cent of the farms that account for 12% of the total marketings.

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The Amalgamated Clothing Workers (CIO) pioneers in model housing, unemployment insurance and labor banking, have now added life insurance to that list. Members of ACWA will be covered by insurance under the terms of the new collective agreement. The employers will contribute 2 per cent of their payrolls. Workers will contribute nothing.

Southern Workers Can Powerfully Influence Congressional Elections

The South is ripe for a political turnover. It will happen whenever the new army of industrial workers realizes the vast power within its reach, and when the poll tax system has been broken.

The poll tax has kept the Southern congressional delegations from being representative of the increasingly industrialized South. Poll Tax Congressmen, elected year after year by a handful of paying voters, do not represent the South today. This is evident from the paradoxical situation in which 80 per cent of the South regards Roosevelt as its leader, while 90 per cent of Southern Congressmen and Senators do their best to knife the home front program of the Administration.

To the Southern worker, the New Deal means among other things the Wagner Act that gave him his unions, collective bargaining, decent wages and working conditions; to the Southern farmer it means the FSA and a chance to get a fresh start on his own farm; to the average Southerner it means anything from sanitary privies to social security and TVA, but it means something progressive, something to fight for. On the other hand "New Deal" to the average Southern Congressman means "beaucracy", infringement of "state rights", and he glowers darkly while voting against FSA, NYA, price control, subsidies, aid to small farmers.

Almost without exception poll tax Congressmen have championed the most rigorous anti-labor legislation and have voted against every measure which would protect the rights of working men. Yet today in many poll tax districts there are more industrial workers than the total number of votes cast in the Congressional elections, and in every poll tax district in the South there are enough industrial workers to be a powerful influence in Congressional elections.

ALABAMA

In every Congressional district in Alabama there were at least 4,000 more industrial workers than there were voters in the 1942 election.

Hobbs has 21,700 industrial workers in his district, nearly three times the number of voters—7,500—in 1942. Yet

Newsome, representing Birmingham and Jefferson County, has five times as he had no opposition in the 1942 primary. many industrial workers in his district—53,000—as there were votes cast for him—9,200—in the 1942 election. The number of industrial workers was almost twice as large as the votes cast in the primary.

Boykin has 10,000 more industrial workers in his district than there were voters in his 1942 election.

Grant and Steagall each have more than twice as many individual workers in their district as there were votes in their 1942 election.

GEORGIA

Peterson has almost three times as many industrial workers as there were voters in his 1942 election.

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Southern Workers Have Power Will They Use It?

(Continued from Page 1.)

Cox has more than three times as many industrial workers as there were voters in his 1942 election.

Pace has five times as many industrial workers (9,000 of whom are in textiles) as there were voters in his 1942 election.

Camp has more than six times as many industrial workers (26,000 of whom are in textiles) as voters in his 1942 election, and 8,000 more than voted in his 1940 election. He had no primary opposition in 1942.

Ramspeck has almost four times as many industrial workers (of whom 12,000 are in construction) as voters in his 1942 election.

Vinson has three times as many industrial workers as there were voters in his 1942 election. He had no primary opposition in 1942.

Tarver has more than seven times as many industrial workers (23,000 of whom are in textiles) in his district as there were voters in his 1942 election. This total of 39,700 industrial workers is greater than the number of votes (33,900) cast in his 1942 primary, as well as the 37,300 votes cast in the 1940 election.

Gibson has four times as many industrial workers (6,900 of whom are in forestry) in his district as he had votes cast in his 1942 election.

Brown has almost four times as many industrial workers (8,300 fo whom are in textiles) as he had votes cast in his 1942 election.

MISSISSIPPI

Rankin has 3,000 more industrial workers (10,000) in his district than he had voters (7,000) in his 1942 election.

Whittington has 2,800 (60%) more industrial workers (7,400) in his district than he had voters (4,600) in his 1942 election. He has had no primary opposition in three out of his last four campaigns.

Colmer has 10,000 more industrial workers (17,500) in his district than he had votes (7,500) cast in his 1942 election.

McGehee has 11,000 more industrial workers (21,000) than 1942 voters (9,600) in his district. In construction, logging, and saw mills, there was a total of 5,000 more workers than 1942 voters.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rivers has twice as many industrial workers (11,800) in his district as there were voters (5,500) in his 1942 election.

Fulmer has four times as many industrial workers (20,000) in his district as he had voters (4,400) in his 1942 election, and 5,000 more than he had voters in his 1940 presidential year election. He has twice as many textile workers (9,000) in his district as he had voters in 1942. He had no primary opposition in 1942.

Ware has ten times as many industrial workers (32,000, of whom 26,000 are textile workers) as he had voters (3,200) in the 1942 election. He has three-fourts as many workers as there were voters (42,000) in the 1942 primary.

Bryson has eleven times as many industrial workers (47,000) in his district as there were voters (4,200) in his 1942 election, and twice as many workers as there were voters (24,000) in his 1940 presidential year election. More than 40,000 of these are textile workers. He had no primary opposition in 1942.

Richards has eight times as many industrial workers (25,000, of whom 20,000 are textile workers) in his district as there were votes (3,100) cast in his 1942 election. He has three-fourths as many workers as there were voters (33,000) in his 1942 primary, and about twice as many workers as there were voters in his 1940 presidential year election.

McMillan has four times as many industrial workers (12,800) as he had voters (3,900) in the 1942 election.

Every South Carolina Congressman has at least 6,000 more industrial workers in his district than he had voters in his 1942 election; three of them had at least 22,000 more workers than voters.

VIRGINIA

Bland had no opposition in the 1942 primary, and received only one-fourth (5,200) as many votes in the 1942 election as there are industrial workers (20,000) in his district. With the war construction program, additional tens of thousands are now employed in shipbuilding in his district.

Harris has five times as many industrial workers (27,000) in his district as there were voters (5,400) in his 1942 election. Additional thousands of shipbuilding wokers have come in recently. Here there has been no primary opposition for the last two campaigns.

Satterfield has over three times as many industrial workers (20,000, of whom 8,000 are in construction and 5,000 in railroads) in his district as there were voters (5,800) in his 1942 election. There has been no primary opposition in this district for the last two or more campaigns.

Drewry, Burch and Robertson all have in each of their respective districts at least 9,000 more industrial workes than thee were votes cast in their 1942 elections. None had any primary opposition, either in 1942 or in 1940.

Drewry has 5,600 workers in lumber; Burch has 15,000 in textiles; Robertson has 5,800 in construction.

Woodrum has 16,000 more industrial workers (27,000) in his district than there were votes (11,200) cast in his 1942 election; and 6,000 more workers than voters in his 1942 primary. Of these 9,000 are railroad workers.

Smith has more industrial workers (16,700, of whom 9,000 are construction workers) in his district than there were votes cast (15,400) in his 1942 election. It is estimated that there are an additional 25,000 federal workers in his district.

Flannagan has 7,000 more industrial workers than there were voters in his 1942 election. Of these 33,000 workers, 19,500 are coal miners. Flannagan has had no primary opposition for the last two campaigns or more.

TEXAS

Dies has more than three times as many industrial workers (37,000) in his district as there were votes (10,000) cast in his 1942 election. There are more workers in petroleum refining (12,000) than there were 1942 voters in his district. He had no primary opposition in 1942.

Beckworth has almost twice as many industrial workers (19,000, of whom 7,000 are in crude petroleum) in his district as there were 1942 voters (11,000).

Summers has three times as many industrial workers (34,000) in his district as there were votes (10,600) cast in his 1942 election, and 9,000 more than the votes cast in his 1942 primary.

Thomas has twice as many industrial workers (72,000, of whom 15,000 are in construction; 5,000 in crude petroleum, and 12,000 in petroleum refining) in his district as 1942 voters (32,000).

Thomason has three times as many industrial workers (20,000) in his district as there were voters (6,600) in his 1942 election.

Kilday has more than twice as many industrial workers (principally in apprael and pecan shelling) in his district as there were votes cast in his 1942 election.

U. S. Conciliation Director John R. Steelman, speaking in Atlanta, said that the South had fewer industrial disputes and strikes than the rest of the country. Contrary to popular belief, Steelman stated that organized labor is more willing to discuss conciliation and less quick to strike than unorganized labor.

HEALTH DEFICIT LIMITS SOUTHERN MANPOWER

Dr. Thomas Parran, Chief of the United States Public Health Service, has called the South "The number one health problem of the Nation." He says, "The death rate from all causes is higher in the urban South than in the urban North among both white and Negro citizens." Southern rural conditions are generally found to be worse than those in the southern cities.

Malaria

Malaria is the chief under-miner of health. It is estimated to cost the South half a million dollars annually in actual expense, plus loss of life and labor. One of the greatest benefits conferred on the South by the New Deal has been through the battle on malaria. Through the C.W.A., F.E.R.A. and W.P.A. the government spent several million dollars by giving the unemployed work and dug 24,280 miles of drainage canal, draining nearly 500,000 acres of swamps and ponds where mosquitoes carry the malaria germ. This brought protection to more than 20,000,000 Southerners.

Hookworm

Another great medical deficit in the South is caused by the hook worm. Here the same government agencies that did so much to prevent malaria have operated to prevent hook worm. They erected a million and three-quarter sanitary privies of which more than one million were in the Southern States alone.

Doctors and Hospitals

Dr. Parran says, "with an excess of illness and a high death rate, there is need for a larger number of physicians, nurses, hospitals and other medical facilities than in the rest of the country." But in the South there is one doctor to every 1,044 persons while in other parts of the nation there is one to about every 760 persons. In the larger cities where there are better facilities and where the wealthier live and can thus pay the doctor's fee, the ratio is lowest in the nation. The South is provided with less than half as many hospital beds per thousand population as the rest of the country.

Less than one-third of the Southern counties have full-time health service. More than seven hundred remain to be provided with it and that number is increased for the duration.

Youth

A thorough-going report by the National Youth Administration on health among their clients found that the greatest need was among those in the South and that, contrary to the general impression, the need among the Negroes of their clients, that is, the lower income, unemployed and needy, was not greater than that among the whites. They found that these young men and women exceeded the national average in heart trouble, blood pressure, hook worm and venereal diseases.

Mortality

The Federal report on vital statistics issued in 1937 shows that every Southern State led in infant mortality by from 20 to 40 per cent more than in the State with the lowest record. Infant mortality ran from 52 to 57 per 1,000 in the Southern States as against a national average of 45, with Connecticut furnishing the lowest rate —only 19 per one thousand. In still births the rate in the South ran from 52 to 68, while in the United States it was 29.9 with Idaho the lowest with only 17 per 1,000. The maternal death rate was the highest in the Gulf States, with the exception of Georgia and Louisiana. A large insurance company reported that the South led the nation in the number of deaths without medical aid.

Health a Function of Income

Miss Josephine Roche, when Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, made a two-year survey covering 3,500,000 persons to discover the effect of low income upon health and upon death rates. She found the ten major causes of disease and death to be tuberculosis, cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, influenza, kidney disease, diarrhea, enteritis, syphillis, cerebral hemorrhage and appendicitis. These ten diseases were responsible for 75 per cent of all deaths in this country. For these ten disease the ratio of deaths was twice as great for those having incomes of less than $1,000 per year as it was for those having larger incomes. The National Industrial Conference Board, an agency of the manufacturing and employing interests of the country, reported that the average annual per capita income for the South was only $253.00 at the time of the study, as compared with $432.00 for the United States including the South. They reported Alabama's per capita accountable income to be $189.00 as compared with $700.00 in New York; Mississippi's $170.00 vs California's $605.00; South Carolina's $224.00 vs Illinois' $500.00.

"The burden of the poor is their poverty," said Carlyle. Better incomes will solve many of the South's problems, including that of its health deficit.

ALVA W. TAYLOR.

Joseph D. Keenan, WPB vice-chairman for labor production, has stated that more than one million man hours were lost in Detroit because of the recent rioting and cost the nation a worse setback in the production of planes, tanks, material and other equipment than it had suffered from all the labor disputes in the entire nation in the first two months of this year.

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In the recent elections in Ontario, Canada, the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation won 34 out of 90 seats in the provincial legislature. It had not a single seat before the election. The platform of the CCF, counterpart of the British Labor Party, included broad social security, limitation of war-time profits, collective bargaining, and collective ownership of socially-necessary industries.

"I Address You As A Texas Farm Woman Saying This Thing is Wrong and We Will Not Stand For It"

Ed O'Neal of the American Farm Bureau Federation must have clapped his hands when M. L .Wilson, head of the Extension Service, issued his infamous gag rule ". . . the Agricultural Adjustment Agency . . . is prevented from having access to the press, radio, and other public communication media. . . ."

As SPADE magazine has pointed out, Wilson's statement came near to paraphrasing the testimony of O'Neal when he appeared before a House Appropriations sub-committee recommending a cut in the Triple A funds, and suggesting that all "informational and promotional" activities of the AAA be assigned to the Extension Service.

The cries of protest to this arbitrary ruling forced its modification. One of those to protest was Minnie Fisher Cunningham of New Waverly, Texas, who straightway resigned her position as information specialist for the AAA in Washington, saying ". . . this thing is wrong and we will not stand for it."

From her 1,100 acre farm in Texas Mrs. Cunningham has addressed a letter to Texas Congressmen.

Writes Mrs. Cunningham, "This agency(AAA)is, by the planning of Congress, manned by farmers themselves—men and women skilled, practical, and so recognized by the farmers of their neighborhood. Community and County Committees of the AAA they are called and Congress provided for their election by the votes of the farmers—the democratic way.

" . . . One function of the committeeman has been to secure a clear understanding on the part of all farmers as to the production goals of the nation and each farm's share of the total. In this way each farmer knew before planting time what the nation needed to have him produce. This system has worked so successfully both to produce enormous crops and to conserve the soil that other countries have studied it with a view to their own use.

"It is obvious that if the 150,000 committeemen are 'prevented from having access to the press, the radio and other informational media' they will be unable to inform the six million farm families and the general public of the details of the 1944 war production plan. It is obvious then, that in the middle of a war in which we fight for our lives and the principles of freedom that make life worth living, Director Wilson has moved to do two things:

1. *To suppress freedom of speech and correspondingly injure the freedom of the press.*
2. *To sabotage the war food production program.*

"These are grave charges, which I make in the full recognition of their gravity. But since the young men of my state and nation are dying on foreign battle fields for issues which are involved here, I cannot remain silent.

I address you now as a Texas farm woman, speaking for the farm women of the nation, saying this thing is wrong and we will not stand for it. . . . ."

An Advocate of Shift From Cotton To Food Cites Some of the Difficulties

The Editor:

...Of your articles in the SOUTHERN PATRIOT bearing on the shifting of our production away from cotton to foods of immediate value, I have warmest comments to make, and think that they are the most valuable of any thus far appearing. But there are some comments I want to make growing out of my own experiences and which may be of value to you.

Peanuts

In the first place you are undoubtedly more correct in your diagnosis of the forces preventing. Much as I admire President Roosevelt, I am loath to admit that many of the men whom he or his aides have selected for important positions, are rigidly adhering to the old notion of selfish corporate interests as being the basis for action. Much bungling and many foolish errors have been and are being made. You cite the case of cotton. Have you looked into the peanut situation as it worked out last year? Farmers hereabouts increased acreage on the assumption that the published buying price was to be $135.50 per ton. Many had signed agreements to sell to the government and when selling time came it paid $87.50 per ton. It is reported that the government then sold to the Georgia-Florida Peanut Assn. which in turn sold for $150.00 up. So farmers hereabouts are not going in for peanuts.

Soy Beans

And about soy beans. Tenants can hardly be expected to make the change away from cotton. A mule, a plow and a planter are all that they have and need for cotton and corn. They know how to raise each of them and there is little chance to be taken. Soy beans are a gamble. To produce the bean they need to be drilled in, on fertile soil, and carefully cultivated. They must be harvested the moment when ripe, otherwise the pods open and they "shell out". A period of rainy weather and they are done for. Then too, even threshed out. To combine them is possible, but on the stony soils such as we have here such a step is difficult. These comments hold of course only in this Piedment area where soils are tough and terraces narrow. That there are abundant acres southward suitable to production of soybeans is true enough. But you see that from the standpoint of the tenant who after all typifies our southern agriculture, to make the change is a gamble and he is not going to do it without much help from the outside.

"I am experimenting now with soybeans. Following wheat and rye I sowed 5 acres of the giant yellow soybean and am awaiting the outcome with much interest.

"So I'm for your campaign wholeheartedly. I'm greatly concerned over the indifference of our people to this matter of soils and our future.

"We Rob Our Soil"

". . . The most imperious need, outside that of winning our war, is the development of a sound and permanent agriculture, a healthy and vigorous and intelligent group of people to care for and use our soils, and an urban population capable of recognizing the dangers of city aggregations and the indifference cities show to rural living. We rob our soils, drenching our streams and sewers with nitrogenous biproducts and the mineral elements in our foods. Someday we shall pay the penalty; and it may be sooner than we think.

So keep emphasizing these necessities. You cannot do a more important thing.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH E. WAGER
Emory University, Ga.

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On Capitol Hill

The most reactionary Congress in decades will return to Washington September 15 and political wiseacres in the Capitol are waiting anxiously to see what, if any, changes have been made in legislative minds by the visits home.

Reports are that the Congressional recess has been no vacation for most of the members. Home folks have poured into their offices in such numbers that most of them wish they were back in their air-conditioned and more trouble-free offices along the Potomac.

Numbers of labor and liberal organizations have made it their business to see that their members went to see the Congressmen and told them what they thought of such items as the Smith-Connally Act, the near-scuttling of OPA and OWI, the abolition of the National Resources Planning Board, the NYA, and all the rest. What political experts want to know is what effect these organized visitations have had and whether they have been offset in whole or part by visits from the Country Club crowds and the Chamber of Commerce sets.

Regardless of the showing of the anti-New Deal candidates in the recent Mississippi Democratic primary, the general political situation in the South continues more or less unchanged. The conviction that President Roosevelt will be renominated is so great that Southern anti-New Dealers are saving their energies for opposition in other directions. It is likely that they will concentrate on Congressmen and Senators still favorable to liberal ideas. They also may make an effort to push Jimmy Byrnes or Sam Rayburn into the Vice-Presidency although this may fail due to the show of political strength lately evidenced by Henry Wallace.

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If it is an accepted fact that the President can be renominated with even less trouble than last time, the idea that he will just as surely be re-elected is growing in Washington, even among Republicans. The Gallup polls show him at an astonishingly high level of popularity. It is possible, depending on events abroad, that the President will make a sweep of the country as thorough-going as he made against ex-Governor Landon. If such a sweep occurs it may be possible to effect a wholesale removal even in the South of those members of Congress who have opposed the President openly in domestic affairs and have sometimes sniped, from under cover, at his foreign and war policies.—H.F.

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Emigrant Agency Laws Retard War Effort

The emigrant agency laws of the Southern States, upon which we reported in a previous issue, continue to do their work of retarding the war effort.

In ten Southern States payment of prohibitive license fees is required of persons soliciting labor for employment outside the State. Some of the statutes were first passed in the 1870's. Their purpose is to discourage the movement of workers outside the state.

Several months ago, the State of Florida passed a new law increasing the amount of the license fee to $1,000 for the State and $500 for each county from which labor is taken. On August 4, Otis G. Nation, business agent for the Florida Citrus and Allied Workers Union (UCAPAWA-CIO), was arrested on charges of violating this new law. Under his supervision, 438 Negro workers had been recruited from Florida to work in the Campbell Soup Company plant at Camden, New Jersey. The majority of workers were cleared through the Employment Service of the War Manpower Commission. Subsequently, the Governor of Florida telegraphed Chairman McNutt of the War Manpower Commission, requesting the return of those workers who had not been cleared.

When arraigned before a local justice of the peace, Mr. Nation pleaded innocent and posted a $2,000 bond. A preliminary hearing was held, at which the local authorities hoped to produce subpoenaed records on recruitment from the Orlando office of the U. S. Employment Service. The War Manpower Commission did not feel itself legally bound to honor this subpoena. Court trial was set for September 13.

A series of articles entitled "Legal Barriers to Interstate Migration," appearing in the March and June issues of the Cornell Law Quarterly, strongly condemn the emigrant agency laws as unconstitutional and as a hindrance to war manpower mobilization. It seems clear that these laws, if taken to the courts squarely on their merits, will be stricken down as denying to American citizens under our Constitution the right to move freely from State to State in search of economic livelihood. This right was affirmed squarely by the Supreme Court of the United States two years ago in the famous Okie case of Edwards v. California.

TRENDS

Employees of the National Fireworks Corporation at Mayfield, Kentucky, chose the AFL as its bargaining agency in a recent NLRB election. The vote was 1,252 for and 167 against.

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TVA has given Tennessee the lowest electric rates in the Nation. A Federal Power Commission report listing all cities of more than 50,000 population showed the 4 cities having the lowest rate in the country were Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis, and Chattanooga, with a rate of 75c for the first 25 kilowatt hours consumed by residential users. Local companies retailing power still made money at that rate. The national average is $1.33. Rates for other Southern cities were Birmingham .81, Louisville .88, Houston .96, Raleigh $1.00, Dallas $1.06, Montgomery $1.20, Columbia, S. C. $1.44, Savannah $1.45, Atlanta $1.45, New Orleans $1.50, Miami $1.78.

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Declaring that he believed the new "work or fight" law unconstitutional, Magistrate John L. Lancaster of Spartanburg, S. C., dismissed cases against Jim Leister and Buckey Painter. Painter, president of a textile local (AFL) at Fairmont mills, was dismissed last April for aiding in a strike. He had been in the employ of the mill since 1911 with the exception of time spent in the A.E.F. Leister had worked for Fairmont since 1929. Originally arrested on a vagrancy warrant, they were later charged with violation of the "work or fight" law passed in 1943.

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When the National Negro Insurance Association was formed 22 years ago, it had assets of $5,000,000. Today that sum has grown to $40,000,000 with a half million dollars of insurance in force, stated J. E. Walker, president of the Universal Life Insurance Company, of Memphis, in his address to the association.

* * *

When vice-pres. Ralph W. Carney of the Coleman Lamp and Stove Co., Wichita, Kans., delivered an anti-labor speech before the Combined Service Clubs luncheon at Phoenix, Arizona, he was in turn attacked by the Governor of Arizona, Sidney P. Osborn, as an "outside agitator" coming in the state to stir up hatred of labor. To reporters, Gov. Osborn said, "It always makes me furious when I hear a speaker such as Mr. Carney attack the farmers and labor as he did, and attempt to give the impression that industry alone is doing its share in fighting this war."

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An OPW report shows that profits, before taxes, of all wholesale food growers jumped from $4,121,000 in 1941 to $12,897,000 in 1942, an increase of 213%.

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We've always wondered why Senate sessions are opened with prayer, and now we know. The chaplain looks around at the Senators; then sends up a fervent prayer for the rest of the country.

* * *

One of the greatest obstacles in the way of full utilization of women in industry is the problem of child care. To meet this problem Senator Elbert Thomas has introduced a bill, S1130, to appropriate $20,000,000 by the Federal Government for day nurseries and day care centers for the childen of all working mothers in war areas. The program would be administered jointly by the U. S. Office of Education and the Children's Bureau. Many unions have testified for the bill and have urged the amount be increased to $100,000,000.

* * *

In the NLRB election in the Wade Manufacturing Company, Wadesboro, N. C., of 505 employees eligible to vote, 431 voted for TWUA and 13 for no union. Other victories for TWUA are the Broad River Mills of the Hamrick Chain in Blacksburg, S. C., Entwhistle Mills at Rockingham, N. C., Anson Mfgr. Co. at Wadesboro, N. C., and the Durham Hosiery Company in Durham, N. C. At the Durham mill, the American Federation of Hosiery Workers (a TWUA affiliate) contract includes vacations with pay, the first ever given the employees in this, the oldest full fashioned hosiery mill in the South.

In the last 18 months the output per man hour in aircraft rose by 50 per cent and in shipbuilding by 100 per cent, according to a Department of Labor survey.

* * *

Sen. Byrd of Va. is the big "economy" man in Congress. As a result of his demand the WLB must now furnish regular monthly reports to Congress on wage increases approved by the Board. This has required the services of 20 additional statistical experts paid for of course by the US government.—James A. Wechsler in PM.

* * *

Local Union 254 of the Textile Workers Union of America, Columbia, S. C., is helping to solve a recreational problem for the community and soldiers. Every Tuesday and Thursday evenings about 100 men from Fort Jackson and the Columbia Air Base are invited to a dance at the union hall. Girls working in the Pacific mills or living in Pacific community are invited.

On Saturday evenings the union sponsors a square dance regularly attended by several hundred people, and a community night is held on Fridays. Monday night is "Teen-Age Night," and a Boy Scout Troop holds weekly meetings at the Union hall.

A branch of the Richland County Public Library has been opened in the building and over 200 people are making use of the books. A part-time librarian is in charge.

A nursery school operated by the city is housed in the union building. Other facilities include a pool room, three bowling alleys, a canteen and showers.

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TVA Workers Buy 25th Bomber with War Bond Purchases Ceremony at Smyrna Army Base

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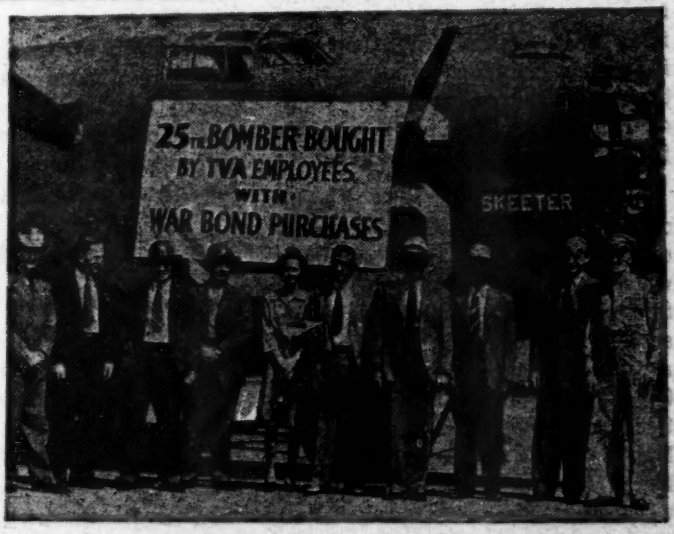

11,000 TVA Employees are now in the armed services. 90% of the employees are putting 14% of their wages into bonds. Spokesman E. A. Courtenay of the Steamfitters' Union (AFL) and Secretary Joint Job Stewards Council, said: *"We will work, fight and buy bonds to make democracy live—to protect what all labor holds dear, the right of free speech, free assembly, right to organize and bargain collectively, as we do with the TVA today, and above all, the right to worship according to the dictates of your conscience."*

Organized Doctors Fight To Close Co-op Hospital

Elk City is a community of around 5,000 people, out on the flat red plains of Western Oklahoma. Standing stark and clean against the prairies is the first co-operative hospital in the country. Built by members of the Farmers Union and Dr. Michael Shadid, small, dynamic believer in medicine for the people, the hospital from its beginning has been a spike in the tender pocketbooks of the American Medical Association.

Every effort has been made by local members of the A.M.A. to throw the farmers who insure themselves against illness by paying annual dues to the hospital, back on the mercies of a system which makes every sickness an economic hazard, and operations, deaths, births and accidents, bombshells that wreck the family's resources and makes them paupers. Now, under the guise of patriotism, they are about to accomplish their purpose.

Here, roughly, is the story:

Governor Defends Farmers

Elk City physicians, members of the A.M.A., soon after the hospital opened, attempted to disbar Dr. Shadid from practicing in Oklahoma. The governor of the State—at that time William H. Murray—defended the efforts of the farmers to help themselves.

Attempted Frame-up

As soon as Governor Murray was out of office, however, the janitor of Dr. H. K. Speed and the office girl of Dr. E. S. Kilpatrick, brought charges against Dr. Shadid of unethical conduct. Dr. Shadid was called to appear before members of the medical profession for trial.

At the request of Dr. Shadid, Judge Keen of Oklahoma issued a temporary injunction forbidding the doctors to try Dr. Shadid and invited them to come to his court and try the case before him. The doctors refused and hired attorneys to go before the State Supreme Court for a writ prohibiting Judge Keen from keeping the injunction. The court refused.

Second Legal Attack Fails

Four years later, when Judge Keen was transferred out of the county, the doctors petitioned the court again. Judge Wise disqualified himself and asked the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to send another judge to try the case. On January 10, 1941, the case was tried in the district court before Judge Babcock of El Reno. More than 2,000 people jammed the courtroom. Judge Babcock ruled that the physicians had no case and threw their charges out of court.

Then came the war. The same Dr. Kilpatrick and the same Dr. Speed were named by the Procurement and Assignment Section of the War Manpower Commission to help decide which doctors in the county were unessential and available for service in the army.

First Son Drafted

Dr. Alexander Shadid, old Dr. Shadid's eldest son, was immediately drafted. The hospital was left with a curtailed staff which included only:

Dr. Michael Shadid, now over 60, diabetic and suffering from osteoarthritis of the spine, who nevertheless performs half the surgical operations;

Dr. C. W. Crane, 65, ear, eye, nose and throat specialist;

Dr. J. E. O'Brien, 46, urologist; and

Dr. Fred Shadid, 28, who is obstetrician, internist, pediatrician, and surgeon, who delivered the more than 100 babies that were born last year, in addition to making all the house calls, being on night call for emergencies, and handling most of the cases that come in the hospital.

Move to Draft Second Son

The committee of A.M.A. doctors assigned to determine the essentiality of physicians in the county, thereupon decided that Dr. Fred was unessential and put him on the available list of doctors for the armed services. They knew that if Dr. Fred left, the hospital would close.

Dr. Shadid, as director of the hospital, decided to request Dr. Fred's removal from the list of available physicians. The local committee refused. Dr. Shadid appealed the case to the State Committee, to the Corps Area physician and finally to the National Board. The National Board upheld the decision of the Regional official who had upheld the State Committee, which had upheld the committee

18,000 People Sign Petition

Meantime, though declared unessential by his competitors, the local draft board has refused to draft Dr. Fred because they understand what his going means to the community. And in the National Farmers Union Washington office there is a petition signed by 18,000 people, asking the President to keep Dr. Fred working at the hospital and the hospital open.

The case of Dr. Fred Shadid is now in the hands of the people. If the people of Oklahoma and elsewhere will write to Colonel Clyde Murray, Director of Selective Service, Oklahoma City, and to Federal Administrator Paul McNutt asking that Dr. Fred be removed from the list of available physicians for the armed services, it will be very hard for these officials to uphold the position of the A. M. A.

CLAIRE SIFFTON.

One hundred and fifty-four delegates, representing the AFofL, CIO, and Railway Brotherhoods in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa, adopted a 5 point program to help win the price control fight: subsidy program, grade labeling, dollar-and-cents ceilings at Sept. 15, 1942 level, continued rent control and a strong OPA.

Poll Tax Victory in Sight

The Anti Poll Tax Bill, H. R. 7, was overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 265 to 110 on May 25, 1943. It is now before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, and will probably be voted out of Committee for action by the Senate soon after the summer recess.

A majority of the Senate favors the abolition of the poll tax. When the Soldier Vote Bill—which abolished the poll tax for men in the armed services—was recently enacted into law there were only 5 Senators who voted against it.

In the Senate, however, unlike the House of Representatives, the parliamentary rules make it possible for a small minority of Senators to conduct a filibuster and delay and even prevent the consideration of legislation which the majority of the Senate favors. Poll tax Senator Bilbo of Mississippi has already announced that he intends to conduct a filibuster on H. R. 7.

To defeat a filibuster it is necessary for two-thirds of the Senate to vote to limit debate. This is known as envoking cloture. Senators who support poll tax repeal must not only vote for the anti poll tax bill but must also vote *for cloture* and continue to vote for cloture until the filibuster is broken. A handful of poll tax Senators must not be allowed to prevent the majority of the Senate from voting on H. R. 7. The crucial vote on poll tax repeal will be the Senate vote on cloture.

In charge of the drive to secure passage of H. R. 7 is The National Committee to Abolish Poll Tax with an office at 10 Independence Ave., S. W., Washington 4, D. C. Jennings Perry, editor of the Nashville TENNESSEAN, is chairman. Thirty-four national organizations, including the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, are cooperating with the Committee. Free literature may be had by writing to the Committee, which needs your contributions.

POLL TAXERS IN ACTION

Poll tax Congressmen form an almost solid bloc of reaction in Washington. For example:

Poll taxer Connally of Texas, elected by 15 per cent of his people, and poll taxer Smith of Virginia, elected by 5 per cent, are the co-authors of the most drastic anti-labor bill ever passed by Congress.

Poll taxer Pace of Georgia, elected by 1 per cent of his people, is the author of a bill to increase the cost of living by $4,000,000,000.

Poll taxer Dies of Texas, elected by 3 per cent of his people, Smith of Virginia, elected by 5 per cent, and Cox of Georgia, elected by 1 per cent, each has set up his own "investigating" committee to smear and hamper the national administration in its conduct of the war.

Poll Taxers Have Vast Power

Poll Tax Congressmen are returned to office by the same handful of paying voters years after year and decade after decade. Once they are in Washington, they make good use of the undemocratic parliamentary rule of Congress by which the Congressmen with the longest tenure become Committee Chairmen. Poll tax Congressmen get and keep vast power on Congressional Committees. In the following list of the Chairman and the Ranking Member of each of the 12 major Committees of the House and the Senate, the poll tax Members are italicized:

Accounts (Audit)—House: Cochran of Mo., *Patton* of Tex.; Senate: Lucas of Ill., Tydings of Md.

Agriculture (and Forestry)—House: *Fulmer* of S. C., *Flannagan* of Va.; Senate: *Smith* of S. C., Wheeler of Mont.

Appropriations—House: Cannon of Mo., *Woodrum* of Va.; Senate: *Glass* of Va., *McKellar* of Tenn.

Banking and Currency—House: *Steagall* of Ala., Spence of Ky.; Senate: Wagner of N. Y., *Glass* of Va.

Foreign Affairs (Relations)—House: Bloom of N. Y., *Johnson, L. A.*, of Tex.; Senate: *Connally* of Tex., *George* of Ga.

Judiciary—House: *Sumners* of Tex., Caller of N. Y.; Senate: Van Nuys of Ind., McCarran of Nev.

Labor—House: Morton of N. J., *Ramspeck* of Ga.; Senate: Thomas of Utah, Walsh of Mass.

Merchant Marine (Interstate Commerce)—House: *Bland* of Va., *Ramspeck* of Ga.; Senate: Wheeler of Mont., *Smith* of S. C.

Military Affairs—House: May of Ky., *Thomason* of Tex.; Senate: Reynolds of N. C., Thomas of Utah.

Naval Affairs—House: *Vinson* of Ga., *Drewry* of Va.; Senate: Welsh of Mass., Tydings of Md.

Ways and Means (Finance)—House: Doughton of N. C., Cullen of N. Y.; Senate: *George* of Ga., Walsh of Mass.

*Rules—House: Sabath of Ill., *Cox* of Ga., *Smith* of Va., Clark of N. C., *Dies* of Tex., Lewis of Colo, Delaney of N. Y., *Colmar* of Miss.; Senate: *Byrd* of Va., *McKellar* of Tenn.

*Democratic members in House listed in full on account of extreme importance of this Committee.

Of these 24 major Committees, 10 have poll tax Chairmen, and 14 have poll taxers as ranking members. Thus the Members elected by a handful of voters in the 8 poll tax states have as much power in Committees as the Members from all the other 40 States.

SUGGESTED LETTER TO YOUR SENATOR

Dear Senator:

The anti-poll tax bill, H. R. 7, will soon be considered by the Senate. By restoring a free ballot to ten million Amercians, this Bill will fortify democracy. It will promote greater national unity, and will destroy a powerful propaganda instrument in the hands of the Axis enemy. We consider H. R. 7 a Win-the-War measure that should have your support.

Unfortunately, one Southern Senator has threatened to filibuster against this bill "for 18 months if necessary." The Senate has enacted the Smith-Connally Bill with heavy penalties on strikers in war industries. A filibuster is a form of strike, which stops the entire machinery of government. A filibuster is the negation of democracy and is disgraceful at any time, but in war-time it is a treasonable act. We feel sure that you will not permit yourself to be identified with such a highly unpatriotic procedure.

Yours truly,

(Your name and address)